

STATE OVERVIEW

DELAWARE: IT'S GOOD BEING FIRST

Delaware, located on the eastern seaboard of the United States, is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and the Delaware Bay, as well as by the states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

Delaware's strategic location affords easy access to the major metropolitan areas of the Northeast, with both New York City and Washington, DC just an hour and a half away by car.

The State has three counties: New Castle, Kent, and Sussex. All of the cities and towns in the State are independent, incorporated municipalities. There are three major cities in the State: Wilmington, with a population of 72,500; Dover, the State capital, with a population of 32,500; and Newark, the site of the University of Delaware, with 29,800 people.



[The United States Census](#) indicates Delaware is the sixth least populated state in the country, with approximately 830,000 people calling the First State their home. New Castle County is the most densely populated of the three counties. However, the population growth in Sussex County has exceeded the national average.

Delaware has a diverse industry base. Delaware's main economic engines include financial services, life sciences, tourism, chemicals and automobiles.

Agriculture dominates Delaware's landscape with 43 percent of the State's land being in farms. The poultry industry accounts for over two-thirds of all agricultural cash receipts at approximately one-half billion dollars. Sussex County is the number one broiler producing county in the country. Receipts from vegetables total around \$60 million annually from about 60,000 harvested acres. Corn, soybean and nursery products are also very important commodities. Delaware's diverse agriculture plays a vital role in the State's economy.

In the last decade, 77,500 net new jobs have been created in the Delaware economy, a 22 percent increase. The State's [labor force](#) has kept pace with the growing job market by expanding faster than the national average over the same period.

The State has seven institutions of [higher education](#), three of which are State-supported, including the [University of Delaware](#), a nondenominational land grant college. Other State-supported institutions are [Delaware State University](#) and [Delaware Technical and Community College](#). There are also four private schools awarding post-secondary degrees.